

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

This is a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) ~~of Continuation Application Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) filed May 19, 2003, which is a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA)~~ of Application No. 09/380,276, filed August 27, 1999 (abandoned), which is a National Stage Application filed under §371 of PCT Application No. PCT/JP98/00799, filed February 26, 1998.